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REVIEWS

América Española, by M. Romera-Navarro. Henry Holt & Co., 1919.
VII—206 pp.

This compendium of facts about Spanish America is an abbreviated edition of a work prepared for the publishing house Renacimiento, Madrid. The book, which comprises 115 pages of text, is divided into three parts: *periodo colonial*, *periodo revolucionario* and *periodo contemporáneo*. The important facts and figures of each period are given. Indeed in the first part the dates, events and names accumulate into such a formidable array that the ordinary student will be unable to retain all, or even a large part of them. While the teacher may do so, it would have been better, it seems, to have emphasized the most important men and events more than has been done, and to have supplied maps and indicated the routes of the early explorers and conquerors. This would have made the book, barren of maps or illustrations, more attractive, and would have helped the student to better visualize the events and countries studied.

The student will find that the second division is more easily digested, also more interesting. Necessarily here, too, we find many dates and events, but they are not so frequent. The third part is the best and most interesting of the three. Here we get a glimpse of the *territorio*, *población*, *noticia histórica y geográfica*, *agricultura*, *industrias y comercio*, *ciencia y letras*, and *ideales políticos*.

As noted above, the book is a summary of a longer study, and it suffers from the compression into a rather small number of pages of the bare historical facts, which to make them more interesting, should be accompanied by more of the attendant circumstances. A text to be serviceable in the class-room must be somewhat agreeable to the student, and it is to be doubted whether the first part, which is important, will be pleasing to the average student. The teacher could, of course, supplement the book with maps and other material which can be drawn from the publications of the Pan-American Union.

The text is supplied with *aclaraciones y notas gramaticales* and a vocabulary. The notes contain biographical matter and explanation of some of the grammatical difficulties.

While the book is rather heavy as a reader unless supplemented with other material, it would be excellent as parallel reading and as a reference book for second-year college or third-year high school classes studying Spanish-American literature.

Argentina, Legend and History, by Garibaldi G. B. LaGuardia and Cincinato G. B. LaGuardia. Benj. H. Sanborn & Co., 1919. LVIII—411 pp.

To quote the preface: "In this book, the editors offer reading material which will give the student some idea of the history of Argentina, of her great men, of her development since the dawn of independence, and of

her wonderful possibilities. . . . " This is substantially what the book does, and consequently it is a good introduction to the study of Argentina and her literature. The material "has been arranged to suit the needs of third-year high school work, or second-year college Spanish."

The fairly long (35 pp.) but interesting introduction prepares the teacher and student for the text; being aided by the Biographical Notes (9 pp.), which give information about each author selections from whose works appear in the book.

The first selection is the Argentine national hymn, followed by excellent studies of various Argentine characters such as the *gaucho*, *rastreador*, *baquiano*, *gaucho malo*, and *cantor*. These selections will not fail to please and interest both teacher and student. These character studies are followed by a description of the *pulperia*, or country-store and bar. Then come a series of *leyendas*, some short stories and a few articles describing Argentina (*el ombú*, *la cordillera*, *la naturaleza sudamericana*). The next part of the book contains studies of important men and events in the history of Argentina. The last two selections are: *Con rumbo a la esperanza*, by Blasco Ibáñez, and *El Ministro Drago al Ministro García Mérou*, the latter being the "Drago doctrine," a "corollary to the Monroe doctrine." The volume has 104 pages of vocabulary. There are 39 illustrations and two maps.

This brief outline gives an idea of the scope of the book. All the selections, save the one by Blasco Ibáñez, are by Argentine writers. We have here variety in unity. While all the articles treat of Argentina, they are as varied as one could wish. This scheme of treating *one* country in a reader is, to the reviewer, an ideal one. When the student has finished this book he has a fairly definite idea of Argentine history and tradition. He has an introduction to and a background for a study of Argentine literature should he desire to continue that study.

It is pleasing to note that the illustrations, uniformly good, are always *apropos*. The notes, at the bottom of the page, explain the more difficult constructions and give such biographical and other matter as is not found in the Biographical Notes.

The editors do not seem to have attempted to arrange the selections in order of difficulty. They have, however, in the opinion of the reviewer, placed the more interesting matter at the beginning of the book. The vocabulary of 6500 words (estimated) is not too large for the second-year college or third-year high school classes for which the book is intended.

The typography of the book is good, the illustrations and maps helping to make an attractive volume.

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